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THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



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January 19, 1983

The Honorable William M. Gardner
Secretary of State
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Mr. Gardner:

You have requested our advice on whether the June 15, 1982, opinion of this office concerning RSA 664:4 political contributions applies to state party committees as well as candidates.

The June 15, 1982, opinion refers to only candidates because that was the particular situation presented to us at that time. The statute in question, RSA 664:4, however, clearly applies to political committees and political parties as well as candidates. The term "political committee" is defined in RSA 664:2 III as "any organization of 2 or more persons to influence elections or measures, including the political committee of a political party as hereinafter defined." The term "political committee of a political party" is in turn defined in RSA 664:4 V to mean "the state, county, city, ward or town committee of a political party." Thus the state party committee is included in the definition of "political committee" and is therefore subject to the same limitations under RSA 664:4 as is a candidate.

For the foregoing reasons it is our advice that our June 15, 1982, opinion applies to state party committees as well as candidates.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald F. Rodgers
Attorney
Division of Legal Counsel

RFR:rf

83-3-I